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THE VOICE OF
AUSTRALIAN SOCCER

AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST AND ONLY INDEPENDENT SOCCER NEWSPAPER

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CONTINENTAL
CHOCOLATES

Getting to know you...

VIETNAM WANTS US BACK NEXT YEAR!

— From MARTIN ROYAL —

SINGAPORE — The lessons of the tour are already quite obvious: we must continue to meet the strongest Asian teams such as Korea, Vietnam, Japan and Burma in order to stand any chance in the World Cup elimination rounds.

Only through constant contact with our madly enthusiastic Asian neighbours can we hope to acquire that "international patina" which is so very essential in world soccer.

Colonel Sanh, chairman of the Organising Committee of the National Day Tournament wants Australia to return to Saigon

next year to defend the Cup.

Sanh, Vietnam's top soccer official, has also advised team managers John Barclay and Jim Connell to nominate Australia for the All-Asian Tournament in Tokyo next year.

The All Asian Tournament is also known as the Asian Cup and has been staged every four years since 1956.

The winners have been South Korea in 1956 and 1960, and Burma in 1964.

This is the biggest Asian competition after the Asian Games, and is open to every Asian team, irrespective of political affiliation.

The survivors of elimination round-robins will meet in the Japanese capital for the Asian Cup next year.

While the Saigon Tournament was in progress, Burma qualified for the Tokyo finals when they won their elimination group, at home in Rangoon, in a series of matches against

Cambodia, India and Pakistan.

Australia, Sanh said, could apply to take part in the final play-offs in Tokyo as a "guest" entry, in an unofficial capacity as we didn't enter the preliminary rounds.

Colonel Sanh told the Australians on departure from Saigon Airport that on the form shown in winning the National Day Tournament, Australia was the leading soccer team in Free Asia at this moment.

Throughout the series in Saigon, indeed, on the entire Asian tour, it has been most significant that Australia has always been referred to as an Asian country, and not only in regard to soccer.

We have been accepted as part and parcel of the Asian scene and the perspectives, soccer-wise at least, for Australia are limitless.

The Vietnam Football Federation, Sanh also said, was anxious to give one or two individual players of their national team some experience in Australia.

He expressly mentioned the left fullback, Lai Van Ngong as one player he would like to send on loan to an Australian club.

Ngong would be a sensation in Sydney soccer.

He is tremendously fast and resourceful and, in my opinion, was the outstanding defender of the tournament.

Other Asian officials have also expressed interest in sending players to Australia to gain experience with local clubs.

All have been struck by the Australians' superior fitness, sounder tactical maturity and much more professional outlook.

"Australia can play a big part in helping Asian soccer by sharing its coaches, facilities and general know-how," Sanh said.

In other words, the Asians need Australia as much as we need them, and a mutual assistance "pact" can only benefit the sport in this part of the world.



John Warren and the South Korean captain, Huh Yoon Jung, exchanging pennants in the Saigon final.

AUSTRALIA WILL FIGHT TO KEEP UNBEATEN RECORD

One of the most successful overseas tours by any Australian sporting team winds up on Saturday when Australia meets Malaysia at Kuala Lumpur.

The Australians are hell-bent on maintaining their magnificent unbeaten record and making it an unprecedented 10 victories in a row.

They are also aware that the match will be played at the Merdeka Stadium, venue for the prestigious Merdeka Tournament held annually in the Malaysian capital.

An impressive Australian victory would go a long way towards securing an invitation from the Malaysian FA to compete in next year's Merdeka Tournament, all expenses paid this time as befits one of the top soccer nations in Southeast Asia.

The Aussies also have a score to settle with their Malaysian hosts.

Charges by Malaysian officials after Australia's 1-0 Saigon semifinal win over Malaysia that the Australians had "used their height and physical superiority to unfair advantage" haven't gone over well with the Aussies who are more determined than ever to score their fourth straight win over Malaysia.

"Needle" match

Saturday's game could develop into a no holds barred, "needle" match.

Australia will not take any chances and coach Joe Vlasits is certain to select our strongest team, barring injuries.

Vlasits' task won't be an easy one because our so-called "second stringers" played so well in Indonesia and are now fighting to retain

their places in the team.

The Australians were surprised to hear upon arrival here that New Zealand had trounced Malaysia 8-2 in Kuala Lumpur last weekend.

On current form Australia should win convincingly and boost their impressive total of goals, which stood at 26 after the 6-1 win over Singapore yesterday.

Australia's visit to both Singapore and Malaysia has attracted wide interest in the local press due to Australia's success in Saigon.

Capacity crowd?

Malaysian officials confidently predict that a near-capacity crowd of 37,000 will watch Saturday's match.

The Malaysian premier, Tunku Abdul Rahman, who is also president of the Malaysian FA, may be in attendance.

Since 1965 Australia has defeated Malaysia three times.

In 1965, our World Cup team won 1-0 and 3-0 at Ipoh, and two weeks ago we made it three wins in a row in Saigon.

Saturday's match at Kuala Lumpur will be Australia's 69th full international.

At the start of the Asian tour our international record included 28 wins, 27 defeats and seven draws.

Thanks to the team's shattering successes on tour it now reads: won: 34, lost: 27, drawn: seven.

The two matches in Indonesia and the second game, against a Combined Services

XI, in Singapore on Thursday, don't count as full internationals though the matches in Indonesia were to all intents and purposes full internationals

Great second half routed Singapore

— From MARTIN ROYAL —

SINGAPORE, Wednesday — With a sparkling second half display, Australia last night whitewashed Singapore to the tune of 6-1 in the Jalan Besar Stadium.

It took some time for our team to settle down on the fast, Wembley-like turf, which was made greasy by evening dew.

However, Australia was soon on the offensive, largely due to an enterprising De Lyster on the left-wing but the inside-men seemed to lack fire.

John Warren looked positively tired, and I would say badly needs a spell.

Coach Joe Vlasits should really drop him for the rest of the tour, but this is most unlikely as the Aussie skipper is anxious to complete an unbroken sequence of appearances.

It was left to the powerful Ackerley — who has also played in every match to date — to start menacing the Singapore goal.

In the 12th minute he lunged forward and his searing drive was barely saved by goalie Wartam.

In the 17th minute, Warren missed a chance

when his close-range header was tipped over the bar.

At this stage our attack was really malfunctioning: McColl was out of touch, Westwater was busy, but erratic, and Abonyi unusually quiet.

Still, Australia was on the attack almost non-stop and our defence had no trouble at all coping with the sporadic and tentative Singapore attacks.

Finally, in the 28th minute, our first goal arrived: De Lyster picked up a loose ball which bounced off a defender, slipped it to Abonyi who wormed round the goalie and slammed it into the open net.

Despite an almost continuous barrage on the goal, the rest of the first half remained barren.

At half-time, Singapore changed jerseys, switching from blue to white, mainly to avoid the clash of colors with the green of Australia.

The change proved luckier for us than for them.

In the 55th minute, an impatient, if not frustrated, Ackerley swooped into the attack, made a great dash on the left wing and cut the ball back to Westwater to ram home the second goal from about six yards.

Three minutes later, Vojtek replaced De Lyster on the wing — and made a sensational debut.

The very first time he touched the ball was when he had to take a corner kick: the curving ball, touching the hands of re-

(Continued on page 8)

The triumphant Australian team returns to Sydney at 6.30 a.m. next Tuesday November 28, on Qantas flight 742.

The team leaves Singapore at 11 p.m. on Monday (Singapore time).

ASF secretary, Ian McAndrew is returning from his European trip on the same flight and will link up with the home-bound tourists in Singapore.

WESTS FLEXING RUSTY MUSCLES

— By KEITH GILMOUR —

At last, soccer is seeing the key Western Suburbs area really building its muscles, using its brain and starting to assert itself.

Some 25 years ago, enthusiasts ran the small West Sydney Association and the Drummoyne scouts junior competitions and so on, but never was soccer properly administered.

Early in 1959, soccer people throughout the Western Suburbs got together and decided to remedy past faults.

Led by Tom Reid as president, George Liddell, secretary, and with such stalwarts as Ted James, Gordon Hill, and the late Mike Flaherty, the new Western Suburbs Association was formed.

That year, 20 teams from seven clubs affiliated.

Steady growth ensued, and nine years later 70 teams are operating.

Many parts of the district have some of the biggest and strongest clubs of the Protestant Churches Association.

All told, Western Suburbs district have thousands of players split between their association, the Churches' competition and the schools.

Livewire approach

There is little doubt that a livewire approach to promotion of new clubs can bring a vast increase to the association's ranks.

Once an association of their potential reaches 70 teams, enough enthusiasts should come forward to ensure clubs from every suburb.

Ground difficulties have provided an artificial barrier to growth, but given drive and enthusiasm, this disability can be conquered.

The quest for representative honors has gone on, and this year reward came when the under-18 team swept all before it to annex its "South of the Harbour" competition, and go on to win the Sydney and State titles.

Five Dock, Concord and APIA clubs have been the association's biggest numerically, but new suburbs and schools entering have already resulted in 17 clubs becoming affiliated.

The board of the Western Suburbs Soccer Club Ltd., with chairman George Gibson and secretary Gordon Stratford to the fore, have done much to lift the game at every level.

Many talented players join the triumphant APIA at Lambert Park, and now Wests are mounting their attack on First Division status.

Social club

The social club is sponsoring, organising and coaching juniors, but the initiative for new junior clubs remains with the association committee.

The club has instituted a worthwhile player insurance scheme for local players.

Joe Marston and his few new professional players will do wonders to produce players for the Magpies.

President of the Association, Sgt. Reg Downton of Leichhardt Police Boys Club, has great faith in the future of the code, and hopes to see it fully expand into Croydon, Burwood, Balmain and other centres.

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Once Wests Association reach 100 teams, nothing will hold them from reaching the top in the soccer game.

NEPEAN

Nepean Districts Soccer Football Association increased by 555 players in 1967 against 1966, making it one of the biggest growth areas in metropolitan Sydney.

After only six seasons, 137 teams are fielded, and next year more entries, especially in the suburbs and towns from St. Marys westward, are expected to swell the total entry considerably.

This year Riverstone gained the honor of winning the all-age competition, dropping only one point to Blue Mountains.

White Eagles took out both the KO Cup and Dunbar Cup, downing the redoubtable Riverstone on both occasions.

Second Division winner was Llandilo, after a close tussle with Emu Plains TC.

As benefits a young association, the accent has been placed upon increasing standards through education of referees and coaches.

Recent examinations held at Glenbrook resulted in 14 new referees being passed.

The proposed coaching course met with a wonderful response, but due to other commitments, the Coaches' Federation may conduct the sessions as week-end affairs in February.

Nepean is proud of its advancing standards, says secretary, George Churchward.

Blacktown's plight

Local player George Ams has had trials with Hakoah, and Calvin Parkinson narrowly missed full-time engagement with Western Suburbs.

Numerically, the top clubs are Blacktown Spurs and Blacktown Spartan, both of whom fielded 19 teams.

Amongst the 24 clubs are the RAAF Penrith and RANATE naval establishment of Schofields.

Church clubs are represented through Glenbrook Baptist, St. Marys Convent and St. Dominics College.

The ups and downs of Blacktown in Federation Second Division have drawn attention to the need for the entire Nepean area to be covered in senior soccer by stable representation.

The area has a number of keen amateur clubs in the Inter-Suburban League. St. Marys, Penrith and Blacktown Spurs.

District officials admit that many problems remain to be solved before Nepean is right in the forefront of Sydney soccer.

An organisation starting from nil which fields 2,415 players in six years has much to be said for it.

With such a foundation the next six years are certain to bring Nepean well up the ladder of Sydney soccer districts.

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SYDNEY CLUB PATROL

BILL RORKE is almost certain to leave APIA. The young goalkeeper, who missed half of the 1967 season with a shoulder injury, may join St. George-Budapest.

The large European and English population on the South Coast will benefit greatly by the introduction of "STAR SOCCER" on Channel 4 every Friday night at 10.10 p.m. The program will mainly feature English matches but sometimes European matches are also shown.

It's almost certain that **JIM BAYUTTI** will be the new president of the NSW Federation.

There is some doubt whether Northern NSW League acting chairman, **DON PONT**, will be able to stand for the president's position, due to business commitments. Don is the father of the Australian under-23 international Peter Pont, who joins Western Suburbs from Awaba in January as a professional player.

Western Suburbs junior official **DOUG MACALLISTER** has succeeded **Eric Willmott** as Publicity Officer of the Sydney Metropolitan Amateur Soccer Association. All other executive officers have been returned, including president **Eric Arneil** and secretary **Brian Emery**.

COACHING COURSES are being conducted at Bankstown, St. George, combined Granville-Gladesville at West Epping, with a further course planned for Nepean at week-ends. At Bankstown, the district coaches handle all subjects, with the NSW Coaches Federation conducting all practical and theoretical examinations for the preliminary Certificate.

Ex-APIA star goalie JOHN ROBERTS is now the permanent custodian of English Fourth Division club Chesterfield.

Recently re-signed St. George forward **LES SCHAUMAN** got married last week. His wife is a German-born South African.

LEN KELL, the former South Coast United player who turned down a position as assistant-coach two and a half years ago to attend a

refresher FA Coaching Course in England, is keen to return next season to coach a Sydney First or Second Division club. **Kell, 35**, is a qualified FA coach and has had playing experience with Chelsea and Norwich City. Interested parties can write to **Len Kell** at 1 Proctor Close, Chedgrave, Norwich, England.

The wife of **BEN NATHAN**, former NSW Federation president, died last week in Sydney. Together with all other soccer followers, we offer our deepest sympathy to Ben Nathan and his family.

The **BANKSTOWN DISTRICT COACHING ACADEMY** will hold its presentation night on Tuesday, November 28, at the Bankstown Club Ltd., at 7.30 p.m. The NSW Federation of Soccer Coaches will present its first national coaching certificates at the function. Bankstown are very proud that they have the first lady-player coach to qualify for a national certificate. She is **Mrs. P.S. O'Connor**, who plays outside-right for the Bass Hill RSL Ladies team.

BOB ENGLISH has indicated that he will not be available to stand as secretary of the Northern League. Amongst those being canvassed to stand for the position is Northern League committee-man **STEVE STEVENSON**, a keen worker to build up standards and publicity for Newcastle football, and also a great barracker for Lake Macquarie.

A move to enable under-14, 15 and 16 DISTRICT representative players to have a dual registration with the senior club in their district was defeated at the Sydney Metropolitan Amateur Annual Meeting. Under the proposal, which is likely to be re-submitted, players would be able to appear for the highest grade club in their district to June 30, and still qualify to play the rest of the season as District representatives.

Eighteen-year-old **DOMINIC BARDETTA** scored three goals in last Sunday's

early game at Wentworth Park against the highly-rated English amateur combination, and scored another for Pan Hellenic against West Adelaide Hellas when substituting in the second half of the late game.

There is a move afoot in the **CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION** to form a Coaches' Association for the district. Canterbury is anxious to get back to the top in junior circles, and the success of Bankstown coaches has impressed many district officials.

The Annual General Meeting of the **NEPEAN DISTRICT Soccer Football Association** will be held on Sunday, November 26, at the St. Marys Soccer and Sports Club, starting at 1 p.m.

FRANK HAFEEY and **St. George** are at financial loggerheads over the demands of the Scottish goalie. The result may be a parting of ways.

Well over 100 senior and junior coaches are expected to attend the **NSW COACHES FEDERATION** meeting at the Western Suburbs Soccer Club, Bevin Street, Five Dock, on Monday, December 4. The star attraction is a talk at 8.30 p.m. by Australian coach **JOE VLASITS** — "Uncle Joe" to all and sundry — on the standing and future of Australian soccer following his experiences in the Saigon Tournament and subsequent Asian tour.

BOTTALICO, NUTTALL and **GIACOMETTI** may be victims of a big artillery barrage soon laid out by coach **Mike Mazzina** in APIA.

BILL STOEVELAAR will be in charge of Pan Hellenic's summer coaching class, to commence at Wentworth Park under ground next Sunday at 9 a.m. Stoevelaar, one-time First Division defender with Sydney Austral, has developed into one of the city's best all-round coaches, and has a flair for clearly demonstrating his subject.

Many clubs are considering a plan to delegate two non-executive members to the ASF from NSW. The most popular choice is St. George president **LES BORDACS**.

A progressive North Shore amateur club requires all-age **PLAYERS**. Ring George Papp on 41-0111 (Ext. 340).

OSCAR RIVERO, APIA's Argentinian forward, packed up and returned home suddenly last week. APIA will shed no tears. Rivero never clicked in Sydney and proved one of the biggest flops of the season despite the big reputation which preceded him.

No dividend for Aussies in N.Z. link

— by Phillip Dennis in the New Zealand "Sports Digest" —

For all the justice in NZFA chairman **Jack Cowie's** recent plea for more interest in New Zealand soccer by the Australian administrators, it begins to appear as if our friends across the Tasman have long since decided that our game has nothing to offer them and that their future lies in Asia.

There is no discernible interest in a tour of New Zealand, as the ASF plans to follow up the Asian venture by bringing out either Glasgow Celtic, the European champions, Real Madrid from Spain or Benfica of Portugal next year.

Whereas New Zealand's representative team could not get within ten goals of Manchester United during the English League's champions' tour of these parts several months ago, Matt Busby's boys had to work hard to survive in more than one of their eight Australian matches, and actually were held to a one-all draw in Melbourne by the local State side.

Nor was there anything in the NSW match (3-1), which brought forth this comment from Pat Crerand, one of United's stars, "If that game had been staged at Wembley, everyone in England would have called it classic".

To which Bill Foulkes, who has played against just about every type of football imaginable in some five hundred appearances for United, added, "The standard in Australia was definitely better than I expected".

Even Scotland was hard-pressed; their widest margin in any of the three tests was two goals.

And here's the most important pointer of all, the reflection of public interest in the sport's top players.

This winter in Sydney, full international matches have been played by the three football codes — Australia v. Scotland at soccer, v. New Zealand at rugby league and v. Ireland at rugby.

And although the soccer eleven played only Scotland's second-string team, consider the following attendance figures, weather exerting no influence on any of the three fixtures:—

- Soccer: 34,792.
- League: 33,416.
- Rugby: 32,605.

And when Manchester United played NSW at Sydney, the attendance was 37,000.

Some 36,000 watched the Melbourne game against Victoria, there were 28,000 for the United v. Queensland match at Brisbane and the total attendance for the eight matches was more than 205,000, an average of over 25,000 for all matches.

So that New Zealand will now have to woo Australia with performances good enough to show them that there are genuine contests for them over here, contests which will further aid the progress of Australian soccer and not provide mere "hands across the Tasman" token opposition.

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• FIRST DIVISION FLASHBACK

APIA in clear-cut decline despite comp. win

— By LOU GAUTIER —

Despite a record-breaking six-point win in the premierships and the best goal-average of any Sydney champion team, the 1967 season was anything but a bed of roses for APIA.

At the start of the season most people were tipping a repetition of 1966 when APIA all but scooped the local and national pool, having only missed out on the Sydney Grand Final for an unprecedented clean sweep.

Having lost no players of note during the off-season, APIA were expected to dominate the local scene once again, leaving only the crumbs to their opponents.

The first of their 1966 trophies to slip out of their grasp was the Ampol Cup in which they were knocked out in the semifinal by St. George.

When APIA started the premiership full of running and hit the front straight from the start, it seemed as though nothing was changed on the local scene.

In fact, the competition developed into a one-horse race once Croatia hit their mid-season slump.

APIA established a big lead but they were never quite as impressive as in previous seasons though beaten only twice, both times by their "bete noire" Croatia, in 22 matches.

Individual brilliance

Their fluency in attack had all but vanished and they never recaptured the irresistible midfield mastery which had been a feature of their play in the recent past.

True, the individual brilliance of their forwards enabled them to shake off most of their rivals, but only on rare occasions did fans enjoy the high standard turned on in 1966 by Campana at his best.

Time and again it was left to that deadly opportunist, Giacometti, to turn defeat into victory with some of the best taken goals — an incredibly high proportion of these from dead balls — seen in Sydney for many years.

APIA, however, were far too solid for the rest of the field, and there was never any doubt they would romp away with the competition.

But there was never that stamp of class which set them aside from their opponents in 1965 and 1966.

One always had the feeling, even as they were walking away with the league title, that APIA's tight grip on Sydney soccer was slipping.

For the second year running, the Grand Final proved their nemesis.

This year, however, the premiers were beaten in vastly different circumstances.

Whereas their 1966 loss to Hakoah could be classified as an unlucky mishap, St. George's 5-2 win this year was no fluke.

For the first time since the 1963 Grand Final against South Coast, APIA were well and truly outclassed.

The APIA of only 12 months ago would never have surrendered the initiative after leading 2-0, irrespective of how well the opposition played.

This APIA team, however, was unable to react and stem the tide once things went against them and they disintegrated as the game advanced and Saints' mastery asserted itself.

The Australia Cup seemed to offer APIA a first-rate chance of making amends, and it certainly looked that way after St. George's first round defeat by Pan Hellenic.

Their morale boosted by a series of impressive early round victories, APIA entered the final against Melbourne-Hungaria as the hottest Australia Cup favorites ever.

It's now history how they allowed this title to also slip through their fingers.

The old Olympic Park hoodoo — they've never won there — worked again, and the Cup went to the Victorians, after extra-time.

APIA again didn't utilize too many players in their 1967 campaign.

They relied on a small squad, combining experience and youth.

Goalkeeper Rorke had a nightmarish season and was sidelined after playing for Australia against Scotland, through injury.

He may find it hard to regain his place next season because his replacement, young Brian Taylor, acquitted himself well, despite a few errors of judgment that can be attributed to the inexperience of youth.

APIA's defence was drastically reshuffled at the halfway mark of the competition as a result of Nuttall's cartilage operation.

Although Watkiss came into the defence at centre-half, where he quickly established himself as one of Australia's best stoppers, there is little doubt that the big fellow was missed in attack.

APIA's attack never functioned well with Watkiss in defence.

Ackerley had his best season in Australia.

Tough, aggressive, but always fair, he was the mainstay of the APIA defence and fully earned his Asian tour selection.

Nuttall was the unluckiest player of the season. He was playing superbly when injured against Scotland and missed the rest of the season, with the exception of the Australia Cup.

His injury prevented him from winning the SOCCER WORLD-LA FIAMMA Players' Contest and an almost automatic selection in the national squad.

Giacometti's goals

Van Blerk, who alternated between fullback and centre-half, won his first Australian "cap", but again blotted his record with too much unnecessary rough play.

Pat Hughes, in the first half of the season, was his usual reliable self and seemed set for another great season as one of Australia's top halves.

The international matches against Scotland and Manchester United took their toll on him and in the second half of the season, especially in the latter stages, his form was too bad to be true, and he was a mere shadow of the fine player who gave both Australia and APIA such fine service.

Skipper Bottalico gave all he had to drive his players

on, but the years are quickly creeping up on this fine clubman, whose days in top class soccer may be numbered.

In 1967, however, Bottalico still had plenty of pace and stamina left and has little to reproach himself about.

Archie Blue and Giacometti were the kingpins of the APIA attack.

Blue, in the second half of the season, was one of the best forwards in Sydney.

Giacometti was our top goalscorer for the third consecutive season, scoring 40 per cent. of all APIA goals.

Although he failed in representative football, and often performed lackadaisically in club matches, APIA can thank him to a large extent for their runaway premierships victory.



PAT HUGHES

Kerklaan had another lacklustre season, but proved useful when he filled the midfield role assigned to him by coach Mazzina.

Campana was disappointing and never reproduced the form which made him Sydney's player of the year in 1966.

Low-gear Hellenic hit Hellas for six

— By ALAN SPEERS —

Pan Hellenic, despite conceding an early penalty, were untroubled to defeat South Australian visitors, WA Hellas, 6-2 in their return "friendly" at Wentworth Park last Sunday.

The result confirmed Pan Hellenic's 4-0 win over Hellas in Adelaide, and effectively demonstrated the gap which exists in top First Division standards in the two States.

Faster and more fluid in midfield, Pan Hellenic were rarely above three-quarter pace.

At times they bore an almost apologetic air as they went about the task of winning.

Karyannis and Omeros, who between them scored four goals, were pointed in their sympathy for Hellas goalkeeper Service, each time the ball hit the net.

Hellas' hopes of reversing their Adelaide defeat were raised briefly by the penalty in the 27th minute.

Johnston, who otherwise had an excellent game, was adjudged, rightly, to have

His sparkle and genius were badly missed in APIA's attack, and this was perhaps the greatest contributing factor in APIA's relative decline.

Young Campbell earned his share of publicity this season; too much in fact.

McKinnon, in my book, is just as talented and, to date, has done more to warrant a regular first team berth than his younger, much boosted team-mate.

Argentinian Rivero was given plenty of chances to prove himself, but failed to make any impression.

Team to beat

Coach Mazzina, who took over from Iglesias at the halfway mark of the competition, did a creditable job with his first coaching assignment and it was no fault of his if his players faltered in the decisive Grand Final and Australia Cup matches.

APIA's decline in 1967 was, as we said, relative because after all they did win the premierships, the yardstick of any country's football, by a record margin.

There were, however, unmistakable signs that we may have witnessed the end of APIA's absolute dominance of Sydney soccer.

Labelled Australia's top club — for good reasons — for the past three years, APIA have no intention of being classed as second best.

Their management, always noted for its golden touch in acquiring new players, have wasted no time planning their 1968 campaign.

We have no doubt that when 1968 comes around APIA will still loom as large as ever, and even at this early stage you can mark them down again as the team to beat next season.

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— By ALAN SPEERS —

Pan Hellenic, despite conceding an early penalty, were untroubled to defeat South Australian visitors, WA Hellas, 6-2 in their return "friendly" at Wentworth Park last Sunday.

handled the ball on the edge of the penalty area.

His misdemeanour was both unfortunate and unnecessary as Pan Hellenic's goal was in no way threatened at the time.

The visitors' lead was short-lived, however.

Within 15 minutes, Karyannis, allowed a surprising amount of latitude by former Irish international, Tom Forde, had shot Pan Hellenic into the lead.

First he volleyed a rebound from a header by Henson into the net, then five minutes later he beat Service again with a dipping shot into the corner of the net.

Karyannis apart, the Pan Hellenic forward-line was not over-impressive, though Blitz and McCulloch worked industriously.

Hellas were best served

by right winger Pantelis, who alone troubled the Sydney side's defence.

Service, though beaten six times, impressed with his agility and safe handling, but Tom Forde rarely lived up to his reputation.

Pan Hellenic: Maglis (Clarke); Johnston, Hignett; Henson (Bardetta), Dounias, Mallard; Blitz, Laraman, Karyannis, McCulloch, Omeros.

Hellas: Service; Marusic, Kefaloudis; Worthington, Forde, Irwin; Pantelis, Zervas, Batchelor, Byrne, Kalishiri (Petersen).

Scorers: Karyannis 35, 40 and 75th mins., McCulloch 44 min., Omeros 80 min., Bardetta 88 min. for Pan Hellenic; Batchelor 27 min. (penalty). Pantelis 70 min. for Hellas.

Referee: K. Lockrey.

Crowd: 3,500.

Undoubtedly, the best feature of the side was its solid defence which was reliable and always able to handle the pressures of the best teams in the Division.

The linkmen, Dean, Lorenzutta and Creilly, combined as one of the best trios in this Division and did exceptionally well in not only effectively eliminating the danger from the opposition, but helped considerably in keeping the

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Referee: K. Lockrey.

Crowd: 3,500.

Undoubtedly, the best feature of the side was its solid defence which was reliable and always able to handle the pressures of the best teams in the Division.

The linkmen, Dean, Lorenzutta and Creilly, combined as one of the best trios in this Division and did exceptionally well in not only effectively eliminating the danger from the opposition, but helped considerably in keeping the

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— By ALAN SPEERS —

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THIS IS HOW WE LIVED AND PLAYED IN SAIGON

SINGAPORE — How does a coach feel after winning, first up, an important tournament with his team? A team in which not very many had confidence before?

I tell you how he feels — ten feet tall. That's how I felt when Johnny Warren grabbed that silver trophy, held it high and all of us on the field embraced.

I have been coaching in football for some 20 years now — but this I will always cherish as the highlight of my career.

Our Australian team has huge potential — it improved from match to match.

I am more firmly convinced than ever that after our return to Australia it is essential to keep this team somehow together for future occasions.

If we do, Australia has the nucleus of a fine team for years to come.

During the entire tourney in Saigon I never had the slightest trouble with any of the players.

We maintained strict discipline — but most of the time this was enforced by the players themselves.

In this regard I had tremendous help from John Warren, our captain.

Each night in Saigon the players had to be in bed by 10 p.m. — no exception.

Lou Lazzari is one of our most experienced "internationalists" in the party.

And Lou claims that never before did he experience such a splendid spirit in a representative team as now.

Saigon was hell in every respect and only those can know this who were there.

For example, you must have at least three showers a day to survive the tremendous heat and humidity.

Some Embassy!

Also, you change your underwear about three times a day because after a few hours everything on you is soggy.

The food at the hotel deserved nothing but blast. It was bearable only because we ate there every second day...

All the time we were swallowing salt tablets to keep our strength; without them you begin to feel lethargic after an hour or so.

Lou Lazzari was a busy man in Saigon. Every day twice he carefully checked the legs of all the players for bruises or the signs of slightest infections.

The danger was, he told me, that in this climate even an ordinary cut or bruise can get rapidly infected.

The small contingent of Aussie troops stationed in Saigon have been of tremendous help to us.

About 50 of them attended all our matches, dropped in to our hotel for chats and offered whatever help we needed.

Their canteen and recreation centre was at our disposal and the boys were truly grateful for this hospitality.

But I must express my frank amazement at the lack of interest the Australian Embassy showed in our team.

Before our arrival nobody from the Embassy bothered to make sure that the hotel and food arrangements were right.

Consequently, they were not.

Then, in the first week or so, nobody from the Embassy came even near us — except the Second Secretary and a security officer.

This officer showed us some "horror films" about the dangers lurking in the streets of Saigon, depicting booby traps and amputated limbs, then packed up the film and departed, his job done.

Apart from these two "visits," we had nobody else from the Embassy in our hotel — and we certainly didn't get an invitation to visit the Embassy.

Had it not been for the Australian Army in Saigon, we would have felt pretty lonely indeed.

I cannot praise enough our management. John Barclay did most of the negotiations — and scored bullseyes.

The fact that after a while our meals improved was due to his strong interventions.

At every conference between the various team managers the Australian viewpoint was either accepted at once or after a debate.

This way we unquestionably established a reputation off the field as a party that can't be pushed around.

I often met the coach of the New Zealanders; like myself, he is also Hungarian born, Juan Schwanner.

He was inquiring about the possibility of moving to Australia — but I quickly talked him out of it.

Schwanner is getting £NZ3500 (\$8850) as national coach and is paid by the Rothmans Foundation.

So — he is certain to stay put in New Zealand.

Each team in Saigon had a bus and an interpreter at their disposal.

Our interpreters were college boys and girls, all most helpful.

sessions daily, before each meal.

As the matches got under way, we kept reducing the quota; towards the end when for example we had to play three matches in four days, we held only limbering-up exercises.

On our arrival we discovered with some horror that the grass in the stadium was far too high — some four inches.

Our first impulse was to lodge an immediate protest and demand that the grass be cut.

High grass

But then we saw some of the Asian teams at training and found that the Vietnamese and the Koreans are very fast and very nippy.

That kind of play, I felt, demanded a smooth, fast surface and the high grass certainly impeded them more than it did us.

So instead of protesting, we shut up — and hoped that they wouldn't bother cutting the grass at all.

Which, of course, they did not.

In our match against New Zealand the forwards were in their element; we sent 39 shots at their goal.

allotted to them and would not switch over to zonal defence.

The best way to destroy this type of defence is to interchange positions.

Our forwards were instructed to do this, taking their defenders with them, opening up the tight shell in front of the Vietnamese goal.

The boys did this rather well. Yet, we could only score one goal, because both Baartz and Abonyi were a bit too slow in front of the goal when in shooting position.

Malaysia plays a kind of English football — direct, fast and hard.

That is why I was surprised to hear after our semifinal match that they accused the Australians of being too "robust".

The Malaysians almost paid a heavy price for not adhering to the new rule which limits the goalkeeper to four steps after he has got the ball.

Against Thailand they conceded two goals from free-kicks because of such infringements — and it was only through a whirlwind finish and a last minute penalty that they secured a win.

The South Koreans — now, there is a fine team for you. They have a professional look about them, on and off the field.

Impressive Koreans

Their players are stronger than the other Asians and their ball control, passing and shooting is almost European.

I never had the slightest doubt that they would finish first in their group and felt all along that they would be our opponents in the final.

Their right half is absolutely brilliant, a combination of Schaefer and Westwater, who runs for 90 minutes, tackles, distributes and even attacks.

I was deeply impressed by their standard. Yet Ackerley and Warren, both with a better ground for comparison, claim that the South Koreans are a very far cry from their Northern "brothers".

If that is true, we have a long way to go yet before we can truly claim to be the best in this part of the world and dream of a place in the Mexico final 16.

At first we thought the Korean players were from ordinary club teams.

However, as it turned out, they are very similar to the North Koreans in their approach.

Ten of their players were from the army, seven from the police force.

It's a fine side; they had the same team in Saigon that had previously played in Tokyo and lost to Japan in the Olympic elimination series only on goal average.

Simple tactics

The New Zealanders arrived in Saigon with 18 players and three officials — but no physician and no masseur.

It was obvious from the start that their preparations and attitudes were pretty outdated.

I am afraid New Zealand, in international soccer, is a good 20 years behind Australia.

But if they learn their Saigon lesson, they should soon start to catch up.

Our tactics in Saigon were rather simple: we started off in each match with a 4-3-3 formation and then, after some 20 cautious minutes, gradually switched to a more attacking 4-2-4.

This way we could not be surprised by the unknown



Joe Vlasits

— From Joe Vlasits, coach of the Australian team —

career closely.

I can say this truthfully that never in his life did he play a better game than against Vietnam when he rose just above the whole field.

Why did I drop Romanowicz after the second match? Well, against Vietnam he was shaky, nervous and dropped a few easy balls, so I thought I'd rest him.

Corry was in great form and fully justified my confidence.

But make no mistake about Romanowicz: pretty soon he will be Australia's outstanding goalkeeper.

Early in the Saigon days I had a problem with the left wing.

Both Richards and McColl are basically inside forwards who instinctively abandon their wing and crowd the middle.



RAY RICHARDS

Richards played when I needed somebody with more robust power and work capacity, McColl when the ground was dry and fine touches were needed.

De Lyster never got his chance. Actually, his heel injury which he had sustained in Sydney, healed perfectly — but the boy lost his confidence.

Still don't write him off as I still feel he is one of the most talented ballplayers in Australia — and a real left winger for good measure.

I don't think I exaggerate if I claim that our quintet was the best Australian forward line for years.

SAIGON SNIPPETS

One of the Vietnamese student girl guides, "Spring Rose", more or less adopted the Australian team. She walked into the Aussies' dressing-room before the final against South Korea and told them: "You diggers must win today, or I be very crook on you".

crowd, hoisted the little man on his shoulders while the repair was effected.

Stan Ackerley is another Aussie who was a big hit with the volatile Vietnamese crowds. His noisy, colorful tirades on the field against friend and foe alike had the spectators in stitches. Both Ackerley and Westwater also astounded Saigon fans with their tremendous throw-ins.

Midway through the first half of the match against New Zealand, fullback Stan Ackerley damaged the Australian back netting. The game was held up for three minutes while a Vietnamese official hurried on with a repair kit. However, he wasn't tall enough to reach the hole in the netting, so Ackerley, amid roars of laughter from the

While in Saigon, team captain, John Warren, Doctor Brian Corrigan, Terry Smith, of the "Australian", and myself were guests to lunch of Captain Jack Bromley, former Australian Rugby Union international, at the "Five Oceans" American Officers Army Mess. Bromley, who is a medical officer with the Australian Army in Vietnam, entertained us with a graphic account of his experiences in Vietnam. Bromley and a number of other Australian officers and men serving in Saigon attended every Australian match.

Croatia-Melbourne's Billy Vojtek was the pin-up boy of the Saigon crowds, especially the girls. Delighted shrieks of "Billy, Billy" echoed all around Cong Hoa Stadium when Vojtek scored the equalizer in the 26th minute of the final against South Korea. — MARTIN ROYAL



Australian halfback MANFRED SCHAEFER.

Our training ground was a police recreation field — but I would best describe it as a cow paddock.

It was small with an uneven surface where the players had to be careful at all times not to suffer an injured ankle.

In Saigon I always announced my team two days before a match.

This way I wanted the selected players to relax and stop worrying about whether they play or not.

We usually entered our dressing room two hours before kick-off for a slow change, massage and then a last brief tactical talk where I reminded them of our plans.

Then I asked either John Barclay or Jim Connell to speak a few words.

And these two never failed to create the right, pleasant, happy mood for the tense players.

Before the tournament started, we held three training

And yet, when the score was tied at 2-2 at half-time, I was worried.

Micic was lost in the mud, his slowness spelt danger. But when Schaefer came in after the resumption, the whole team got going again.

The Vietnamese team included many very skilled players.

However, they have one terrible shortcoming: they want to walk the ball into the net.

When I saw that during their first match, I realised that if we tackle them hard and don't allow them any room to operate, we can keep our goal intact.

And this is exactly what happened.

Vietnam's tactics were obvious in their first match — and I decided to exploit them.

They played a strict 4-3-3, without any variation and without any flexibility.

This meant that the defenders marked men who were

ABONYI: "I AM COMING TO SYDNEY." HUNGARIA: "WE WON'T LET HIM GO."

WAR IS LIKELY OVER ATTILA'S TREASURES

— By PAUL DEAN —

Will Attila Abonyi play for a Sydney club next season?

Will his Melbourne club agree to transfer him?

To which club? For how much?

The controversy about the future of this mercurial youngster, Australia's top scorer in Saigon, is certain to widen and deepen. Our Melbourne correspondent, Bob Low, writes:

Speculations in recent weeks over the future of 21-year-old inside-forward Ottilie Abonyi of Melbourne have ended with statements by both the chairman and the secretary of his club who emphatically told me in the past few days that the player was not for sale.

Abonyi's name has been mentioned in connection with both APIA and St. George-Budapest in recent weeks — but without any real foundation.

So far the Melbourne club have had no direct approach by any club for Abonyi's transfer.

In an official statement, Tom Markus, secretary of Melbourne HSC had this to say: "Abonyi is not for sale at any price and this also applies to any other member of our first team squad."

Melbourne chairman Andy Kun was equally adamant on suggestions that Abonyi might move.

Every time I mentioned this possibility to Kun, he nearly exploded.

"A thousand times no," he said. "Abonyi is not for sale and we are more interested in strengthening the team than selling any player who is considered a first team man."

There is also a State League resolution which bars the transfer of any player from Victoria who has represented Australia or has been a member of the Australian squad — until at least one year after the date of his selection.

So if any outside clubs have any designs on any Victorian player who has represented Australia or has been in the squad, they are only wasting their time contacting the player or his club in a bid for his transfer.

Approach in Sydney

So far so good. Bob Low knows his facts; Andy Kun and Hungaria know their rights.

But they are discounting the fact that Abonyi knows his own mind best.

When the Australian squad was in Sydney before their departure for Saigon, I visited them at their motel.

I asked Abonyi point-blank whether the rumor was true that he was keen to come to Sydney.

"Definitely true," he told me. "I have already informed my Melbourne club."

"I'm getting married in February and want to move to Sydney in March."

Which club, I asked; APIA, as rumored?

"Of course not," Abonyi said. "I was born in Hungary and it's only natural that I want to play for St. George-Budapest."

Have St. George approached him yet?

"No," he said. "I have approached them. They told me that after the Asian tour they will contact Melbourne HSC about



ATTILA ABONYI

my transfer; they didn't want to cause any upset while I was away."

Why was he keen to come to Sydney?

"Because everybody knows — even if we in Melbourne hate to admit it — that Sydney is the centre of Australian soccer."

"It is here that I can improve my game best."

"Now that I'm getting married I must also think of my future — and this seems best assured with St. George-Budapest."

"It's as simple as that."

Will Hungaria SC release him?

"Look," he said, "I have played with them since I was 11, for years without any payment."

"Nobody can say I am ungrateful if after 11 years I want to leave to give myself a better chance."

"I was never demanding about money, I never cost them much, never asked for a transfer."

"So why wouldn't they release me now?"

What about the Victorian Federation ban for a year on representative players?

"They can do what they like," he said, "I'm coming to Sydney."

"Naturally, I'd like to part as friends, but this depends on my club, too."

"If the VSF wants to stop me, I'll appeal to the ASF who may not recognise such restrictive practices."

"If they do, in future many players will be reluctant to play for Australia."

Saints' view

I also asked St. George president, Les Bordacs, about the position.

"We have never approached either the player or his club," he said.

"Abonyi asked us, while in Sydney, whether he could join us — and we said we'd be delighted to have him."

"And if he wants to come, we'll do everything we can to secure his release."

"Obviously, we don't want to have any bad blood with Melbourne HSC, whom we regard as our sister club."

"But past experience shows that if a player really wants to move, move he will."

"In that case it's only natural that he should join us, not some other club."

QUARTERMASTER ON FUTURE TOURS

— From Martin Royal —

SINGAPORE — There is something to learn on every tour — that much must be obvious.

Co-manager John Barclay, for example, feels that in future one official should arrive on the spot a few days before the main party to make all arrangements.

If this had been done, he says, many an unpleasant "surprise" in the hotel could have been eliminated.

Jim Connell says that the accommodation in our Saigon hotel was "not quite adequate."

"Three men to a room is not ideal," he told me, "but it was far too late to do anything about it."

"Next time we'll have to look into these aspects sooner."

The high expenses also worried Jim Connell while we were in Saigon.

"As only canned drinks were safe to consume, we had to buy cokes all the time."

"And one coke was 600 piastres (about \$3.60)."

"Or take the chewing gum, which many of our players needed before and during a match."

"One gum was 25 piastres (about 15c.)."

"On top of this, we had to eat outside the hotel quite often, partly because of convenience and partly because the food there was really bad."

"And meals in Saigon are expensive."

Tony Boskovic was most impressed with the organisation of referees.

"I think the Vietnamese did a great job," he told me.

BATTLE ON FOR MELITA CONTROL

— By CHARLES SPITERI —

The battle for administration in the Melita Eagles club (which we reported last week) is not yet over. A move is afoot to have the Federation investigate the conduct of the ballot and certain other aspects of the meeting.

Of course, this investigation (if any) is not likely to be immediate as it would have to be dealt with by the incoming Management Committee who would come to power after the November 22 elections.

But looking back on this meeting, which resulted in the sacking of Nick Bonello, the secretary, and Joe Attard, the vice-president, the members present, for unknown reasons, were seeking a vendetta.

The attitude of the 150-strong attendance — a club record for their AGM — was slow at start but once the president declared it opened, the fervor of intent became obvious.

With every report read by the executives, the members raised objections or complained to every word said and every figure quoted.

It was clear that some organised dissatisfaction was present, but members were not specific in pinpointing the trouble against individuals or the committee as a whole.

Their thinking could hardly be justified as Melita's first run in First Division could not be written off as entirely unsuccessful.

As the meeting progressed, tension rose, but even under this electrified atmosphere, it was always under control and orderly, if sometimes noisy.

The climax was reached, when the president, Vic Pisani moved to dissolve the present committee and appoint three members as electoral officers to conduct the election of the new committee for 1968.

Once these were selected, the mood of the members was so intensified that many of them could be seen with copies of the club's constitution in their hands watching carefully point by point what went on and to ensure that nothing unconstitutional slip by unnoticed — a rather strange performance, to say the least.

At this point, it was pretty evident that the members were after the scalp of their administrators — rightly or wrongly — and luckily the president was nominated and elected unopposed.

What would have happened to him if another nominee stood for the presidential seat, I wouldn't like to guess.

DRASTIC CHANGES

Then came the election of secretary which resulted in Emanuel Said convincingly beating Nick Bonello — who for many years had given useful and faithful service to his club.

With Bonello, went the vice-president Joe Attard who was soundly defeated by the quiet and immensely popular Dr. Carmelo Cassar, a noticeable personality wherever Melita Eagles is in combat.

Despite the heavy vote against him, Attard was urged by a big band of the members to stand for another position on the committee, which he declined.

After the election of the treasurer, Vic Buttigieg and team manager Sam Sammut, both unopposed, it was hard to find contestants for the rest of the committee as retiring members did not want to face the mood of their members.

These drastic changes were probably made in the belief that new blood would boost the Eagles' determination in 1968 with fresh ideas and more action.

Most of the newcomers are successful businessmen but whether they can lift Melita to greater heights remains to be seen.

Australian know-how paid off

Australia had by far the best organised team in Saigon.

We were the only ones to bring both a doctor and a masseur, and no other squad had two team-managers.

There is little doubt that the Australian Federation's meticulous off-the-field planning played its part in our team's outstanding successes on the field.

The well drilled South Korean squad was the only other delegation at the National Day Tournament whose planning even came close to Australia's.

The other teams, despite far greater international experience than Australia, had been prepared quite haphazardly and were 20 years behind us in almost every respect.

— Martin Royal.

Benefits of Inter-District League becoming evident

— By KEITH GILMOUR —

The benefits of the Inter-District representative league for under-14 and 16 teams is fast becoming evident, according to the annual report issued by Sydney Metropolitan Amateur secretary, Brian Emery.

The Granville winning under-16 team of 1966 became the district's reserve grade team in Federation Second Division, and the trend is evident in other districts also.

Apart from junior coaching, under-16 representative players will in future years already have two years of coaching under the best available coaches.

Here is a factor that all district Associations can consider, as the Federation-sponsored scheme will only bring maximum results when each Association is able to enter every grade.

There is general agreement that the "Champion of Champions" competition for First Division winners from each district has proved itself fully.

Ten grades were conducted this year, and over 100 top teams competed.

With many districts having over 30 teams in a single

age group, the suggestion has been raised that the "Champion of Champions" series be extended to embrace the Second Division winners, and perhaps also the runners-up in First and Second Division.

COMRADESHIP

These competitions produce a delightful class of football, and spread a healthy competition and comradeship across the artificial district borders.

As a consequence, there is bound to be quite a clamour for the new competitions.

Experience shows that grounds can be found to play them off at the end of the season proper.

The 1967 "Champion of Champions" were:

Under 8: Padstow RSL (Bankstown).

Under 9: North Bankstown (Bankstown).

Under 10: Cronulla Seagulls (Sutherland).

Under 11: Marconi (Southern Districts).

Under 12: Lidcombe Waratahs (Granville).

Under 13: APIA (Wests).

Under 14: Bankstown Sports (Bankstown).

Under 15: Revesby Rovers (Bankstown).

Under 16: Guildford (Granville).

All-Age: Earlwood (Canterbury).

It is possible that championship under-7 teams will participate next year.

The NSW Amateur Association did not exchange visits with country centres in 1967, and if there is no decision to do so for 1968 it may well be that Sydney will take the initiative and offer teams to promote country junior football over the Queens Birthday weekend.



ROUND THE WORLD

European Champions' Cup

The following second round European Champions' Cup matches still have to be played: Hri-drove v. Real Madrid, in Madrid, on November 29; Dynamo Kiev v. Gornik Zabrze, in Poland, on November 29; Rapid Vienna v. Braunschweig, in Brunswick, on November 29; Benfica v. St. Etienne, in France, on November 30; Sarajevo v. Manchester United, at Manchester, on November 29; Juventus v. Rapid Bucurest, in Turin, on November 29, and Sparta Prague v. Anderlecht on November 29 and December 6.

Slavia's prestige win

Slavia beat Dukla 2-1 in the traditional Prague "derby" before taking off for their world tour. The win enabled Slavia to finish the first half of the competition in equal 10th place, with Sparta and Dukla, three points ahead of woodenspooner, Bohemians. Trencin is the Czechoslovakian "autumn champion." Slovan Bratislava, at the halfway mark, is second, three points away from the shock leader.

Austrian trouble-makers identified

The Austrian FA has identified two of the spectators who ran onto the field during the violent Austria v. Greece European Championship match recently. Both have been arrested by the police. The Austrian FA has also offered a \$300 reward for information about the identity of other spectators who invaded the pitch.

Italy may stage finals

Italy will stage the finals of the European Championship if its national team reaches the semifinals. The semifinals next year will be played on June 4 and 5 at Bologna and Milan, the third place play-off, on June 8, in Naples, and the final in Rome on June 9.

South America's pre-Olympics

South America's pre-Olympic qualifying tournament will be held from March 20 to April 10 in Colombia. Ten nations will compete for two berths at Mexico. Group "A" will include Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Chile and Venezuela; Group "B", Colombia, Uruguay, Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia.

Mexico's progressive scheme

Mexico's national team will take part as such in the 1969-70 First Division competition. This will enable the team to play together for eight months before the start of the next World Cup. Mexican clubs agreed unanimously to release their players although some, like America, Toluca and Guadalajara, may be without four or five of their best players in the competition.



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2KY ITALIAN MELODIES 2KY
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Organisers of the American Professional League, which is not affiliated to FIFA, claim that 235 million people watched their matches on TV this year. The Columbia Broadcasting Company paid the "rebels" a record \$3 million for exclusive television rights.

● Hungary will play internationals in Budapest next year against Sweden, Austria and Poland.

● The USSR national team will tour South America, starting on December 7. The Russians will play full internationals in Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay.

● Some interesting statistics: 361 goals were scored in the first round of the three major European club competitions (Champions' Cup, Cupwinners' Cup, Fair Cities' Cup) this season. 110 clubs took part in 110 games and the average per game was 3.61 goals scored.

● Yugoslavia's national team manager, Mitic, will not select Hajduk Splir's talented young forward, Vardic, in the national side until he shaves his beard off . . .

● AS Roma intend to buy Spain's top goalscorer last season, Vava, of Elche, once the Italian ban on foreign players is lifted.

● Borussia Dortmund's former German international forward, Wolfgang Peters, 38, has been imprisoned for two and a half years for robbing a jeweller.

● Leicester City's long quest for a new striker ended last week with the signing of Frank Large, the Northampton centre-forward, for \$45,000.

● Inter Milan have transferred Ferruccio Mazzola, younger brother of their star centre-forward, Sandro, to Lecco.

● Another Yugoslav has joined a French club. The latest is 28-year-old international inside-right, Hrvoje Jukic, from Dinamo Zagreb, who moved to Valenciennes.

● The Rumanian Olympic team played a 1-1 draw in Bucharest with a touring Sao Paulo amateur combined XI.

● Despite their 0-1 defeat at home by West Germany, England's amateurs have qualified for the Olympic Games finals as they had won the match in Germany 2-0.

● The South American Champions' Cup will kick-off on January 15. The final will be played in mid-July.

● Another French club will disband. Latest French club to feel the pinch is Second Division Stade Paris. The club is bankrupt and the players haven't been paid for two months.

● Chile defeated Argentina 3-1 at Santiago, through two goals by Fouilloux and one by Reinoso. Argentina's lone goal was scored by Cardoso. It was Chile's second win over Argentina in four months.

● Nine players from the Hungarian team, Dunafoldvar were seriously injured on their way to a match when their bus collided with a coal truck.

● Pele's first record — a selection of Brazilian ballads and folk songs — sold 55,000 copies in its first week of release.

● The Czechoslovakian club, Spartak Trnava, has won the Mitropa Cup. They beat Ujpest (Hungary) 2-0 at home after losing the first leg 1-2 in Budapest.

● The European Cupwinners' Cup tie between AC Milan (Italy) and Győr (Hungary) will be played at Győr on November 22 and in Milan on December 7.

● A.B. Copenhagen won the Danish championship. Aarhus are runners-up.

● Tommy Docherty has declined an offer to manage Greek club, Panathinaikos. The former Chelsea manager is now considering two offers from Spain.

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World Cup changes?

Sir Stanley Rous has hinted that the qualifying formula for the 1974 World Cup may be altered. The FIFA president, speaking at a soccer writers' luncheon in Birmingham, said he would like to see the European Championship (formerly known as the European Nations' Cup) serve as the World Cup elimination rounds. Similarly, he said, the South American and African Championship and the Asian Games should determine the other World Cup finalists.

Asian club cup final

The Asian champion teams cup final between Selangor, of Malaysia, and Hapoel Tel Aviv of Israel, will be played in Bangkok on December 2. There is now a FIFA move afoot to include the Asian and African champion club in a world-wide competition with the top European and South American team. So far, no mention has been made of the eventual participation of Oceania's top side in the series.

Hardaker hits at BBC

Alan Hardaker, secretary of the Football League, criticised the BBC for screening large extracts of Celtic's controversial match with Racing Club of Argentina. He asserts television is aggravating the worsening behaviour on League grounds and says: "The screening of this film on BBC, with all its deplorable incidents, tends to confirm this opinion. 'The BBC not only screened large excerpts as a special program, tying it up with incidents from the Greece-Austria international, but preceded it with a discussion item in '24 Hours' in which the comment was made that football was 'dirtier' than ever," he said.

Fair Cities' Cup draw

These are the pairings for the third round of the 1967-68 European Fair Cities' Cup: Ferencvaros (Hungary) v. Liverpool; FC Zurich (Switzerland) v. winner Sporting Lisbon (Portugal) — Fiorentina (Italy); winner Partizan Belgrade (Yugoslavia) — Leeds (England) v. winner Napoli (Italy) — Hibernians (Scotland); winner Vojvodina (Yugoslavia) — Lokomotiv Leipzig (East Germany) v. winner Atletico Madrid (Spain) — Goztepe Izmir (Turkey). Dundee (Scotland), Atletico Bilbao (Spain), and the winners of Rangers (Scotland) v. KC Koln (West Germany) and Dinamo Zagreb (Yugoslavia) v. Bologna (Italy) have drawn byes to the quarter-finals.

SCOREBOARD

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Portugal v. Norway Egaleo 1-0; AEK v. Prodefti 2-1; Switzerland v. Italy 2-2.

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING MATCH: Morocco v. Tunisia elefthiakos 2-0; Panionios v. 1-1.

ASIAN CUP: Burma v. Pakistan 2-0 (Rangoon); Cambodia v. India 3-1 (Rangoon).

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' CUP: Sarajevo (Yugoslavia) v. Manchester United 0-0; Rapid Vienna v. Braunschweig 1-0; Hvidovre (Denmark) v. Real Madrid 2-2; Vasas (Hungary) v. Valur (Iceland) 6-1; Benfica (Portugal) v. St. Etienne (France) 2-0.

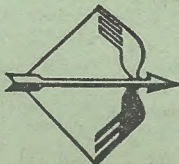
EUROPEAN CUPWINNERS' CUP: Setubal (Portugal) v. Bayern Munchen (West Germany) 1-1; Wisla Krakow (Poland) v. Hamburger SV (West Germany) 0-1; NAC (Holland) v. Cardiff City (Wales) 1-1.

FAIR CITIES' CUP: FC Zurich v. Nottingham 1-0; FC Liege (Belgium) v. Dundee (Scotland) 1-4; Munchen 1860 (West Germany) v. Liverpool 2-1; Bologna (Italy) v. Dinamo Zagreb (Yugoslavia) 0-0; Ferencvaros (Hungary) v. Zaragoza (Spain) 3-0.

FRANCE: Lyon v. Valenciennes 0-0; Rennes v. Red Star 3-0; Angers v. Bordeaux 0-0; Sedan v. Strasbourg 3-1; Metz v. Lens 2-1; Monaco v. St. Etienne 0-3; Aix v. Rouen 4-1; Ajaccio v. Nice 2-1; Lille v. Nantes 2-0; Sochaux v. Marseille 1-1.

YUGOSLAVIA: Red Star v. Sarajevo 1-0; Dinamo Zagreb v. Rijeka 2-1; Zeljeznicar v. Partizan 1-0; Vardar v. Proleter 0-0; Vojvodina v. Radnicki 3-0; Velez v. Zagreb 2-0; Hajduk v. Maribor 1-1; Olimpja v. OFK Belgrade 2-0.

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• MELBOURNE STOCKTAKING CROATIA HAVE KEPT UP A STEADY IMPROVEMENT

Croatia are not only one of the best sides in the State League but one of the youngest in respect of the years they have been in top soccer.

Formed in 1953 after a two-year spell in the provisional league, they were originally domiciled in Geelong and it was not until they returned to Melbourne that the club emerged as a real force and threat for a place in the State League.

They realised their ambitions in 1962 when they won the First Division title and then amalgamated with Croatia to step up to the State League in 1963.

Ill prepared and without good class administration, their shortcomings were soon revealed, and in 1964 they were back in the Metropolitan League.

However, through the foresight of Enver Begovic, Frank Burin and a few more capable management members, they won promotion at their first attempt and in 1965 were once more back in the State League.

Determined to "stay put" this time, their management swung into action with an ambitious spending spree which sent secretary, Burin to Europe in search of players.

And Croatia's efforts didn't go unrewarded.

For soon after the start of the 1965 season they had more than half a team of good class imports, mainly from Scotland and England.

The fortunes of the club quickly changed and even in their first come-back year, 1965, when they finished halfway up the State League ladder, it was obvious by the ability of their team and its colorful performances that they were here to stay and become a real force.

In 1966 they went a step further in the league by ending up fifth and this past season, and for the first time ever, they made the Australia Cup by finishing up fourth.

With an all-action side, particularly in attack, and plenty of skill in their ranks they are sometimes over-ambitious, get careless in the process with the result that inconsistency results and kills their chances of major success when they are within striking distance of the league title or a cup.

They have at least one decided weakness in defence, at centre half, where Hugh Gunn is promising but not sufficiently experienced.

And in attack, good as they may be, it's obvious they have too many players of the same type and lack an experienced general up front who can curb their impetuosity.

However, even with their present line-up, Croatia should still be a strong force once again in State League soccer in 1968.

Tough road for Lions

The road to success has been a tough one for Lions ever since they entered the State League and with the exception of 1963, when they finished eighth on the ladder and won their way into the Ampol Cup final only to be beaten by

Polonia, they have hovered on the brink of relegation almost every season.

In 1964 they finished 10th, in 1965 they dropped to 11th, in 1966 they again occupied 11th position and this past season managed to scramble back to 10th place.

Despite their dismal record, Lions have always made their presence felt and every season they are a good bet to bring off a few shock results against the top teams in the League.

Thinly supported, the Essendon club still managed, with the co-operation of the Essendon City Council, to acquire their own ground at Montgomery Park three years ago and this required considerable sacrifice and support from their most loyal, enthusiastic members.

Repeated changes in the managements until 1967 hardly helped their cause. Some stability in admin-

istration has had a marked effect in 1967.

The management brought in Peter Aldis, former Aston Villa defender, as player-coach at the start of the season and though results have been much on par with dismal seasons of the past, a sound improvement in method and teamwork has been noticeable.

Lions have also made endeavours to improve their playing strength, but tied to a shoestring budget they have not been able to cope with the buying power of the bigger clubs.

For 1968, Lions need at the very least three or four good class players with the emphasis on forwards if they hope to succeed in making a worthwhile challenge.

A team of triers is admirable, but not good enough to win honors and enrich the club's coffers.

Next week: Alexander and Makedonia.

He's the Hammy in the sandwich

— From BOB LOW in Melbourne —

Croatia, denying a Sydney report that their Australian inside-forward Hammy McMeekan was to move to Sydney, have obviously made it up with the player.

"Soccer World" readers can be assured the information that McMeekan was to move to Sydney came straight from the "horse's mouth," McMeekan himself, after the Australia Cup final between Melbourne and APIA, at Olympic Park.

McMeekan made the statement of his proposed move to Sydney to our Melbourne correspondent in the company of former APIA player, Bobby McLachlan.

And later, for good measure, indirectly contacted at least one Sydney club offering his services.

Back in Juventus near the end of the league and cup season after a consider-

able lay-off through injury, Dario Epifano, one of their brightest young stars, created a tremendous impression.

A product of the Juventus juniors, Dario should in the Ampol Cup solve a long felt want for his club by adequately filling the left-wing berth which has caused them so much trouble in the past.

So if you are looking for another bright, young Victorian star, my tip is to keep your eyes pinned on Dario Epifano.

Reports that Tony Hughes, the Footscray JUST centre-forward, is returning to the UK are not completely correct.

Hughes and his wife have been toying with the idea of returning home to Wales

but the earliest date they have in mind is April which assures JUST of his services in the Ampol Cup.

Hughes, who stands over six feet and once played for Swansea, vied with Ottie Abonyi as top State League scorer in 1967.

Both had 20 goals to their credit and Hughes' achievement was more noteworthy as he missed three games for his club.

South Melbourne Hellas, after an unsuccessful league and cup season, appear to be in the midst of a re-organisation scheme.

Reports suggesting that Nestorides, their player-coach, may be replaced by the ton Yugoslav coach Brosic from New Zealand, come on top of the news they have appointed Mr. D. Melidos as secretary.

This was OUR idea...

This week several newspapers gave wide publicity to a Saigon-based suggestion by Australian team manager John Barclay that Australia should play the touring Czech Slavia in Melbourne.

As nobody seems too keen to give us credit — we take it anyway.

On October 13 our Lou Gautier wrote:

"Prague are keen to arrange, on SOCCER WORLD's suggestion, a match between Slavia and the Australian national team.

"A match between them, under floodlights on December 7, would be a natural.

"It would give the Australian public a chance to see the tourists at the end of their five-week tour.

"The ball is now at the feet of the ASF.

"For the sake of the Sydney public we trust they

will give this match more than a passing thought."

Apparently they have. However, as usual, without at least sharing the credit for the idea.

CRISS-CROSS

Mike De Bruyckere is almost certain to become the new George Cross coach.

The former Dutch professional and VSF State coach will replace Tony Vella.

Leading referee, Joe Bartolo, has been appointed George Cross' team manager for 1968.

ADELAIDE PLANS BIG CHANGES FOR AMPOL CUP

— From ALLAN CRISP —

The SA Ampol Cup will undergo sweeping changes next year.

Instead of the customary Monday night games, contested in two groups, the new series will allow a league of eight teams to play four games each week.

Two games will be decided each night over a 10-week period — two on Monday and two on Friday nights.

The league will comprise Juventus, Hellas, Croatia, Polonia, Beograd, Victoria, Seaciff-Austria and USC Lion.

The teams will meet only once with the top four contesting the finals.

The series will begin on Friday, January 22, with Lion playing Croatia and Beograd opposing WA Hellas.

Is the new system an improvement on the old? Opinions are divided on this question.

Many feel that two games each week will place too great a strain on the pockets of spectators.

The new format offers little variety to the winter competition.

Against these shortcomings, clubs can weigh the fact that training costs for a shorter series will be less than in previous years.

Previously it was difficult to maintain player enthusiasm when clubs were asked to wait for three weeks between games.

As it is now, the "poorer" clubs will gain financially

when their turn comes to oppose Hellas and Juventus.

This thought may have been uppermost in mind when the new format was passed by majority vote.

Will the crowd-pulling clubs be content with their fairy god-mother role?

For a little longer perhaps, the answer is yes but eventually the situation could speed the advent of the still mythical national league.

MELB. WINS JUVE. CLASH

Melbourne Juventus, led by an inspired Mario Corti, defeated Adelaide Juventus 1-0 last Saturday night at Norwood Oval.

Adelaide were intent on avenging their unlucky last kick Australia Cup loss to their sister club.

This time, however, there can be no doubt that Melbourne were far superior.

They were quicker to the ball and combined perfectly to outplay their Adelaide opponents.

But for an excellent second half display by goalkeeper Charlie Horvath, the Victorians would have won by a greater margin.

Adelaide, without Peter West and Tom McColl, were an unsettled unit.

Adelaide Juventus are scheduled to play Slavia Prague at Norwood Oval on December 7.

Mario Corti has never played a better game in all his previous Adelaide appearances.

Adelaide Juventus v. Melbourne Juventus 0-1 (0-1).

Scorer: Bell 34 mins.
— A. Crisp

LATE NEWS

The Melbourne Olympic Park Trust has leased the ground to SM Hellas, Croatia and George Cross for 1968. Hellas will vacate Middle Park, Croatia, the old Marybnong speedway, and George Cross will move out of Selwyn Park, Sunshine. Hellas and Croatia have also been granted full training facilities at the ground.

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WINGERS CAME GOOD AT BEST POSSIBLE MOMENT

— From MARTIN ROYAL —

I think it is true to say our wingers won the Saigon final against South Korea for us.

Tom McColl and Bill Vojtek played devastating football, frequently outpacing and outmanoeuvring the Korean fullbacks.

McColl had the easier task of the two, and he was able to move up the wing in fairly orthodox fashion, using feints and body swerve to beat his fullback consistently.

Vojtek was up against a tougher defender in Kim Ho (subsequently sent off) and forced to cut infield more often.

A brilliant ball player, Vojtek was audacious in the manner he would show the ball to an opponent, and then beat him, by screwing the ball infield.

McColl and Vojtek were the revelations of the tour and more than justified their selections.

Johnny Warren, after a truly herculean performance against South Vietnam, faded a little in the games against Malaysia and South Korea.

I really think he burnt himself out against South Vietnam — when he played the greatest match of his career — and it took him longer than usual to recover completely.

But he was still able to get up and score the vital goal that put Australia in the lead in the 52nd minute of the final.

Warren is proving a great tour captain. All the boys like him and admire him.

Ray Baartz was the unluckiest Australian forward in the Saigon series.

His near-misses were a feature of every match.

On a drier ground he would have been terrific, but the Hakoah star was still an integral part of Australia's attack. He played his heart

out in every game and seems set for a permanent berth in many national teams to come.

Attila Abonyi proved Australia's most dangerous and consistent forward.

A real "goal thief", his hat-trick in 12 minutes against Singapore will long be remembered.

Abonyi had the knack of turning half-chances into goals, and his brilliant displays were the more meritorious since the heavy conditions didn't really suit this ball-playing light-weight.

Westwater fit

Alan Westwater is probably the fittest man in the party.

His stamina and pace were the features of every Saigon match.

He is two or three yards faster now than when he left Sydney.

He had a tendency to hesitate sometimes nearing the penalty area, but this is probably an old Pan Hellenic habit of his when he has to wait for the other players to catch up with him.

All the same, the chirpy Westwater, the life of the party on the tour, has turned in some first class games at left-half.

The defence played consistently well.

Van Alphen looks a bit slow, but invariably positions himself well and is very effective in the air.

Schaefer, once given his chance in the second half of the first match against New Zealand, made the right-half position his own.

Pat Hughes' absence in a way has been a blessing in disguise, as it has established Schaefer as No. 1 choice in

Australia's halfback line for many years to come.

Micic wasn't able to produce his best form in Saigon.

The muddy conditions simply didn't suit this delicate ball artist who found the heavy going detestable.

Both fullbacks played intelligent football.

George Keith is a class player, an all-attacking fullback in the mould of England's World Cup pair of Cohen and Wilson.

He has excellent anticipation and is hard and fast in the tackle.

Always looking for the opportunity to launch a right wing attack, he and McColl developed a good understanding on the tour.

Stan Ackerley has been a great worker over on the other flank, and in my opinion has greatly improved on tour.

His enthusiasm is terrific and infectious.

After Roger Romanowicz kept so brilliantly in the New Zealand match, one would have thought that he had the No. 1 goalkeeping position in his keeping.

However, in the first night match, against South Vietnam, he was a wee bit chancy, mis-

handling occasionally, punching out to excess, and Vlasits brought Ron Corry in against Singapore.

Corry, realising, I think, that he had to excel to retain his position, has hardly put a finger wrong, and on present form coach Vlasits is justified to consider him as the No. 1 choice.

Again I must emphasise that this has been a truly magnificent team effort.

The managers John Barclay and Jim Connell, continue to lead the party well.

Joe Vlasits, naturally, is as pleased and proud as Punch, and his personal efforts and dedication to his task have played a big part in the success of the team.

Lou Lazzari fathers the boys, and they love him.

He makes himself available at all hours of the day or night to give them any attention, no matter how trivial the request may be.

Doctor Brian Corrigan and Tom Patrick of Qantas are both excellent tourists, and the three journalists complete a very happy party.

Tony Boskovic, by the way, was appointed to referee the final, but had to stand down when Australia qualified.

Aussie "reserves" pleased Djakarta

— from MARTIN ROYAL —

DJAKARTA, Monday. — Sunday's 3-1 win against Djakarta, which included seven Indonesian internationals, brought joy to the face of Joe Vlasits.

After the staleness evident in Friday's match against the Indonesian XI, he was forced to make a difficult decision, knowing that the Djakarta team was much stronger.

Should he throw in our top team in an effort to counter the added Indonesian strength, or give the reserves a go, hoping their freshness would lift the team to greater heights?

Vlasits finally decided to play reserves Wilkins, Micic, Lloyd, Richards and De Lyster — and the gamble paid dividends!

Not only did Australia win well, but this was the most entertaining match of the tour so far.

Newcastle halfback Ray Lloyd was undoubtedly the best player on the park. His cover defence was superb, his distribution intelligent and accurate, and his sliding tackles were a feature of the game.

It was a magnificent effort from a player who had only appeared in half a match previously.

De Lyster, after a hesitant start, settled down to play like a real winger, using open spaces intelligently and cutting back exquisite passes from the side-line.

The Australians' energetic tackling contributed to a large extent to the success of Vlasits' 4-3-3 system using Vojtek, Richards and

Baartz up front, Micic, Warren and De Lyster midfield and Wilkins, Schaefer, Lloyd and Ackerley as the backline of defence.

Australia won the game in the first eight minutes with goals by Vojtek and Warren.

With less than a minute gone, Vojtek caught goalie Hadijanto out of position following a header from Baartz.

In the eighth minute Warren swooped on a Micic free-kick, brought the ball down on the edge of the six-yard line and rammed in our second goal.

In the second half Australia would have been in trouble had Djakarta not missed another penalty awarded to them by referee Boskovic.

In the 32nd minute of the first half, their first penalty, given against Ackerley for handling, was brilliantly saved by Corry.

In the 62nd minute it was left-half Liem Soei Liang's turn to miss the spot-kick when his shot hit the base of the left post and was scrambled away.

There again an Australian had handled — Schaefer this time.

Djakarta, however, did manage to score finally in the 70th minute when Komor netted from Mathias' cross.

INDONESIANS CHICKEN OUT

DJAKARTA, Monday — After a tiring 14-hour trip from Saigon, via Singapore, a shock was in store for the weary Australians when they landed in the stifling Indonesian heat.

Local officials announced that the two full internationals against Indonesia had been cancelled and replaced by unofficial matches against an Indonesian Federation XI and a Djakarta Selection.

The disappointed Australians were told Indonesia could not risk its international prestige because some national team players are currently touring Pakistan with the Medang State team.

The Australians made good their promise to remain undefeated in Indonesia and won both their matches on Friday and Sunday with something to spare, scoring five goals and only conceding one.

Though visibly weary and somewhat jaded, Australia was sufficiently on top to score an untroubled 2-0 win over the Indonesian Federation XI last Friday in front of 20,000 spectators.

The Indonesians, however, contributed to their own downfall as they could have led 2-0 in the first 15 minutes if their forwards hadn't bombed at least three open goals.

The Australians in the early stages were affected by the lightning-fast, firm pitch and the very light ball, and their defence was shaky.

But once they weathered the storm, they took charge of the match and little was seen of the Indonesian forwards after the first 30 minutes.

Australia scored first in the 37th minute when McColl beat his fullback and crossed for Baartz to head home from eight yards.

Baartz missed an open goal three minutes later, but in the 43rd minute Warren — the best forward on display — laid on a perfect pass for Abonyi, whose hard shot was only partially blocked by the Indonesian goalie and rolled over the line.

Australia slowed down noticeably in the near-century heat in the second half, but the Indonesians failed to make any impression and never even looked like reducing the lead.

How Australia lined up: Romanowicz; Keith (Wilkins), Ackerley; Schaefer, Van Alphen, Westwater; McColl, Abonyi, Warren, Baartz, Vojtek (replaced by De Lyster 20 minutes from the end).

— Martin Royal

Asians liked our referee

DJAKARTA, Monday — Referee Tony Boskovic's two penalties against Australia in the match against Djakarta and the magnificence of the former Bung Karno Stadium were highlights of our short, but fruitful Indonesian visit.

Boskovic was the target of good-humored ribbing after the match, but both penalties were deserved.

Australia's top referee impressed the local crowd with his firm control and fair handling, and it wouldn't surprise if he was often invited in the future to control big Asian internationals.

We were all greatly impressed with the colossal Russian-built \$80 million Djakarta stadium which seats 100,000 people under cover.

The well grassed and closely clipped playing surface was a welcome change after the bare, muddy Saigon pitch.

The stadium is one of Indonesia's costliest "white elephants."

Built for the 1962 Asian Games, it was only filled for political rallies in the hey-day of deposed President Sukarno.

Even the 1963 GANEFO Games failed to fill the impressive tiers of concrete stands.

No soccer match had been played there in the nine months prior to Australia's visit.

The stadium, however, is not wasted — it's being used by the Army as a loading depot and an examination centre for aspiring officers. M.R.

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Crowd: 35,000.

Singapore routed

(Continued from page 1).

placement goalie, Samy, dropped into the corner for our third goal.

Now the Australian team was unstoppable. In the 60th minute, Abonyi flew down on the left wing, crossed to McColl, who volleyed home Number four.

Playing majestic soccer, with all cylinders firing, Australia now proceeded to deliver the coup de grace.

Micic made it three goals in three minutes when, with a delicate pass of Abonyi, he streaked through and smashed in the fifth.

Singapore's consolation goal came in the 69th minute through a break-away, just like the one they scored against us in Saigon.

This time the scorer was Ibrahim Awang, who came in after the first half as a substitute right-winger.

In the 82nd minute, Van Alphen decided to emulate the deeds of Ackerley: cruising up midfield, he chipped a soft pass on the head of onrushing Abonyi who didn't miss from close range for our sixth and final goal.

The team's performance in the second half was excellent, and no wonder Joe

Vlasits left the field with a king-size smile.

The crowd jeered Singapore off the pitch, thoroughly unhappy with the humiliating defeat.

The attendance last night was announced as 4,000 — but was much nearer the 2,000 mark!

Officials blamed the currency change for the disappointing attendance — on Sunday Singapore also devaluated its dollar.

Thursday night our opponents — the Combined Services team — does not appear to be a very frightening proposition.

Earlier this year they beat Western Australia 6-4, but in January suffered a 12-0 defeat against Sparta Prague.

On Wednesday the players will have had a day off from all soccer activities to explore the city.

And this is the best news they have had for some time, because after Saigon, Singapore is like paradise itself.

Australia's team last night: Corry; Keith, Ackerley; Micic, Van Alphen, Lloyd; McColl, Abonyi, Warren, Westwater, De Lyster (Vojtek).



FLOTTA LAURA